

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 MCE-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 /096 W
-----126540 261718Z /43

P R 261553Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8899
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, UK, GW
SUBJECT: CIVAIR VISIT OF UK MINISTERS FOR TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

REF: LONDON 8155 (NOTAL)

1. VISIT OF UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY ERIC
VARLEY AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE EDMUND DELL TO
BONN DISCUSSED MAY 26 WITH DR. SCHOMERUS WHO DEALS WITH
AEROSPACE INDUSTRY FOR MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND SERVES
AS PRINCIPAL AIDE TO MARTIN GRUENER IN LATTER'S
POSITION AS COORDINATOR OF AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.
SCHOMERUS SAID THE MEETING WAS A BRIEF ONE AND WAS
ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH NO REPEAT NO
DECISIONS MADE OR AGREEMENTS REACHED, AND, FOR THAT
MATTER, NO NEW INFORMATION IMPARTED.

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2. THE UK MINISTERS WERE CONCERNED TO EXPLAIN THE
PROBLEMS THAT HMG WAS HAVING WITH DECIDING WHETHER
TO GO WITH THE AIRBUS-JET PROGRAM OR TO COOPERATE
WITH AN AMERICAN MANUFACTURER, ESPECIALLY THE SOME-
WHAT CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF BRITISH AEROSPACE ON
THE ONE HAND AND BRITISH AIRWAYS AND ROLLS ROYCE ON
THE OTHER. THEY CONFIRMED THAT BRITISH AEROSPACE

PREFERRED THE EUROPEAN ARRANGEMENT WHICH IT FELT PERMITTED A BETTER CHANCE TO PRESERVE THEIR IDENTITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND THAT ROLLS ROYCE FAVORED COOPERATION WITH A US PRODUCER.

3. THE GERMAN SIDE INDICATED TO THE VISITING MINISTERS THAT THEY STILL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE UK PARTICIPATION IN THE AIRBUS INCLUDING THE B-10 AND IN THE JET IF THAT PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED. BRITISH AIRWAYS' PURCHASE OF THE 757 OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT AFFECT FRG WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH BRITISH INDUSTRY. GRUENER EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS FRG POLICY VIS-A-VIS LUFTHANSA, I.E. THAT AIRLINES SHOULD BE FREE TO BUY WHATEVER AIRCRAFT THEY WISHED WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S EVEN HINTING WHAT AIRCRAFT IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE PURCHASED.

4. SCHOMERUS SAID THAT UK PARTICIPATION IN THE 757 PROGRAM WOULD PRECLUDE ITS BEING A PARTNER IN ANY OF THE OTHER AIRBUS PROJECTS. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM AN EARLIER FRG POSITION THAT UK PARTICIPATION IN THE B-L0 WAS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE UK AND PERHAPS EVEN GERMAN INDUSTRY HAVING A PIECE OF THE 7N7. SCHOMERUS SAID THE POLICY HAS CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIRBUS INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS INTO A TIGHTER GROUP WITH A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, A DEAL IN WHICH BA WOULD BUY 757'S WITH ROLLS ROYCE ENGINES WOULD NOT AFFECT GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO HAVE FULL BRITISH AEROSPACE PARTICIPATION IN AIRBUS INDUSTRY.

5. EMBOFF BROUGHT UP THE FACT THAT UK ABSENCE FROM THE AIRBUS INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM PROBABLY WOULD MEAN THAT VFW-FOKKER WOULD BUILD THE WING FOR THE B-10. SCHOMERUS AGREED, BUT SAID THAT THE FRG STILL PREFERRED TO HAVE THE BRITISH IN AIRBUS INDUSTRY. HE SAID VFW NO LONGER HAD A SURPLUS OF EMPLOYEES DESPITE THE END OF THE VFW 614 PROGRAM, AND IN FACT, WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ON MORE WORKERS IF IT WERE TO BUILD THE B-10 WING.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, INDUSTRY, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN09656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0332
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780516/aaaaancf.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da653096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 LONDON 8155
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2557439
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR VISIT OF UK MINISTERS FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, UK, GE, (VARLEY, ERIC), (DELL, EDMUND)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/da653096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014